



Leader File Photo

In addition to fireworks, the July 3 Torchlight Tattoo event will feature a patriotic tribute to all 50 states, five territories and the District of Columbia.

## Post to celebrate with Torchlight Tattoo

### *Annual event's name has roots in military history*

Leader Staff Report

The military tattoo originated in Holland during the 16th century. The regimental drum major and fifers performed the tattoo at the end of the day to signal soldiers to begin a torch-lit walk to their barracks and to signal innkeepers in the garrisoned town to stop serving customers.

The word tattoo then, comes from the Dutch expression, "Doe den Taptoe," meaning "to turn off the taps."

Later, Continental Army general orders of Feb. 8, 1778, and Sept. 9, 1779, stipulated that "upon the sounding of the tattoo, sutlers were required to shut their doors and sell no more liquors that night upon penalty of severe punishment."

Further, "the gates of the fort will be drawn up, which must not be let down till the reveille beat," or "upon the return of the drums to the barracks, the gates to be immediately locked."

Unless granted an approved, written leave from the commanding officer of their regiment, soldiers found away from camp after tattoo were suspected of desertion and punished.



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**This year's Torchlight Tattoo will feature a concert by the 282nd Army Band. The official ceremony begins at 9 p.m., followed by fireworks.**

Today, Fort Jackson's Torchlight Tattoo is a colorful, patriotic tribute to the Union, the 50 states, the five territories and the District of Columbia.

Fort Jackson has celebrated this patriotic occasion for many years with the citizens of Columbia and the Midlands.

The Torchlight Tattoo is only one of many observances that the two have shared since the citizens of Columbia first donated to the United States Army the land allowing establishment of Fort Jackson.

This generous act signaled the beginning of a long, intimate relationship of mutual benefit between the city and post that has spanned five major wars.

Today, the bonds are as strong as ever. The city and Fort Jackson are inseparable in spirit and since the 1968 annexation, physically as well.

The military community in the Midlands is more than 136,000 strong and composed of active and reserve component Soldiers, federal employees and retirees and their families.

#### IF YOU GO

This year's Torchlight Tattoo is scheduled for July 3 at Hilton Field. Parking areas will open at 3:30 pm.

- ❑ The 282nd Army Band concert begins at 8 p.m.
- ❑ The official ceremony begins at 9 p.m., with fireworks following.
- ❑ All gates are open for visitors until 9 p.m. After 9 p.m. only Gate 2 will be open for entrance. Drivers must show a valid driver's license, the vehicle's registration and proof of insurance, and all visitors 15 and older must have a valid photo ID.
- ❑ Lawn chairs and blankets are OK to bring to Hilton Field.
- ❑ Do not bring pets, personal fireworks, firearms, grills or alcoholic beverages.
- ❑ Backpacks, coolers and large bags are discouraged in Hilton Field seating areas.
- ❑ Handicapped parking, seating and restrooms are available.
- ❑ Food and drink concessions, as well as children's entertainment, will be available at Hilton Field starting at 4 p.m.

**Note:** In case of inclement weather, the event will be canceled.